***The Great Society: Success or Failure?***

Note the historical theme: Progressivism (1900-1917), The New Deal (1933-1938) and The Great Society (1963-1965) were all top-heavy programs created by reform-minded Presidents. Each came to a sudden stop when America’s entrance to a war diverted the nation’s physical, economic and emotional resources away from the wars at home.

Poverty

Tax Reduction Act

Medical Care Act

Economic Opp. Act

(Job Corps, Head Start)

Appalachian Regional Development Act

Urban Plight

Omnibus Housing Act

HUD

Demonstration Cities & Metro Are Redevelopment Act

Education

Elem. & Secondary Ed. Act

Higher Educ.. Act

National Foundation for Arts and Humanities

Public Broadcasting

Discrimination

CRA 1964 (Uphold Brown v. Board)

24th Amendment (Poll Tax)

Voting Rights Act

Immigration Act

Environment

Wilderness Preservation Act

Water Quality Act

Clean Air Act

Air Quality Act

Consumer Advocacy

Truth in Packaging Act

Highway Safety Act

Dept. of Transportation

Motor Vehicle Safety Act

**The Great Society Was a Success**

* Furnish opportunity & provide human dignity
* Health: Medicare and Medicaid, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, Infant Mortality Rate (esp. for blacks)
* Civil Rights: Voting Rights Act, CRA 1964, Education, De-Segregation
* Poverty relief to the elderly and the disabled
* Public Housing
* Inner City Infrastructure (e.g. San Francisco and Washington rail lines)
* Education: Head Start, College Opportunities & Literacy
* Consumer Protection: Environmental Protection & Truth in Packaging
* Illustrated a proactive and compassionate government
* High Hopes and High Expectations
* Governmental Leadership & Action
* Vietnam Impacted the Great Society

**The Great Society Was a Failure**

* Examine the inner-city today. More failures than successes.
* People who could afford to leave cities did (leaving the poor to deteriorate)
* Public Housing was an utter failure
* An authoritarian approach: treating the inner-city like an occupied territory.
* Race: has the status of blacks improved?
* Crime: court decisions that have restricted police
* Federal Bureaucratization of Schools. A local issue.
* Welfare: poverty remains almost unchanged, but tax dollars are still being spent.
  + Enabling illegitimacy
  + Welfare vs. Workfare
  + The welfare state turns citizens into clients and dependents
* The Job Corps helps those who could have helped themselves
* Exploding Health Care Costs
* Jeffersonian self-governance
* The only way to make one trustworthy is to trust him.
* Waste, fraud, regulations
* Cannot simply throw money at the problem
* Cannot legislate morality

Given these arguments, was the Great Society a success or a failure?